

Reason for Hope

Romans 5:1-11¹

Benefits of Justification

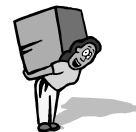
- ❑ Justification² by God’s grace through faith was the theme of Romans 3:21-4:25. How does “having been justified” change a person’s life? Read Romans 5:1-11.
 1. In verses 1-2, Paul mentions some benefits of justification. What are they?³
- ❑ Paul writes, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (5:1, *NIV*). In verse 10, he writes, “we were reconciled⁴ to [God] through the death of his Son.” In verse 11, he says, “we have now received reconciliation” through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. Why is reconciliation with God so significant (important and full of meaning)?⁵



- ❑ Paul writes, “And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God” (5:2b, *NIV*). This “hope” is a sure confidence based on the faithfulness of God. The “glory of God” refers to God’s radiant magnificence. God created humans “in His own image” (*Genesis 1:27*) to reflect His glory. But “all sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (*Romans 3:23*). However, those who have been justified *will be* restored and share in the glory of God in the future (8:17, 18, 30).

Suffering & Hope

- ❑ After saying, “we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God,” Paul says, “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings” (5:2b-3a).
 3. Why does Paul say this? How does suffering result in hope?⁶ Does it always result in hope? If not, why?



¹ We skipped over 3:27-4:25, which continues the theme of justification by grace through faith (3:21-26). In 4:1-25, Paul presents Abraham as an example. “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness” (4:3). Abraham was not only the father of the Jews, he was the father of faith concerning God’s promise. Whoever has the faith of Abraham is a child of Abraham and a recipient of the promise, which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ (4:16-17).

² “justification” (*dikaiōsis*) – God’s act of declaring a sinful person righteous (that is, right with God) based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This is a gift of God’s grace, and is received through faith in Jesus Christ (3:22-24).

³ Paul mentions: 1) peace (*eirēnē*) with God; 2) access into the grace in which we now stand (referring to our continuing, blessed relationship with God); and 3) hope (*elips*) in the glory of God.

⁴ “reconcile” (*katallassō*) - to bring together again; to make friendly again; to change from enmity to friendship; to mend a broken relationship. 5:10 says, “when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through [Christ].”

⁵ One way to describe “our problem” is “a broken relationship with God because of sin.” Sinful humans are called “God’s enemies” (5:10). It is a terrible thing to have a hostile relationship with the Creator and Source of every good thing! However, through Christ, we can have “peace with God” and a close personal relationship with Him!

⁶ The word translated “perseverance” (*hypomonēn*, endurance) comes from the idea of “remaining under.” A person who successfully carries a heavy weight for a long time develops strength and endurance. Muscles need resistance to become stronger. The word translated “character” (*dokimēn*) is related to the word for “test” or “prove to be genuine” (*dokimazō*), so we can say perseverance brings about tested character or proven character. As we rely on God to help us endure suffering and develop character, it strengthens our trust and hope in God for the future.

Love & Hope

- ❑ The death of Jesus Christ is mentioned repeatedly in this passage (5:6, 8, 9, 10). His death made justification and reconciliation possible. It also reveals the character of God.
 4. If you knew that giving your life could save someone else's life, what type of person would you die for? What type of people did Christ die for? (5:6, 8, 10)⁷
 5. Paul mentions God's love in verses 5 and 8. In what different ways is God's love revealed? How are these ways different from one another?⁸



Reason for Hope

- ❑ In verses 9-10, Paul presents two “how much more arguments”⁹ which apply to believers.
 - 📖 Since we have been justified by Christ's sacrificial death, *how much more* shall we be saved from God's wrath (referring to God's final judgment).
 - 📖 If, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through Christ's sacrificial death, *how much more* shall we be saved through his life!
- ❑ Certainly, believers in Christ have great reason for hope! Because of this hope, we have great reason to rejoice, even in times of trouble and suffering (5:2b, 3a, 11).

Reflection/Application

- What is *your* hope for the future? What is your ultimate (greatest, final) hope? How certain is your hope? Does it help you rejoice, even in times of suffering? According to the Bible, the only hope that truly delivers is “hope in the glory of God.” This hope comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
- As a Christian, are you rejoicing? If not, maybe you have lost touch with hope. Maybe you are focusing more on your circumstances than on our Lord Jesus Christ. Meditate on Romans 5:1-11 and ask God to strengthen your hope so that you can consistently rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, even in times of suffering (read Romans 8:18).

Bridge to Lesson 5

- ❑ Christ's death made justification and reconciliation possible. How could one person's sacrifice bring salvation to so many people? Paul addresses this question in 5:12-21.
- ❑ Through one man (Adam),¹⁰ sin and death entered the world. Adam's disobedience resulted in alienation (broken relationship) with God, and this alienation was passed down to all his descendents. Sin, death, judgment and condemnation came to all people (5:15-19).
- ❑ However, Jesus Christ (the greater man) overcame the effects of Adam's sin. By his obedience, Christ conquered sin and death. Through one man (Jesus), grace, justification, righteousness, and eternal life come to all who receive God's gift (5:15-19).
- ❑ A person is either “in Adam” (under sin and death) or “in Christ” (under grace and life).

⁷ Christ died for “the powerless” (*asthenōn*, weak); “the ungodly,” “sinners,” and “God's enemies.”

⁸ Verse 5 speaks of God's love “poured...into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” This is subjective evidence of God's love. Verse 8 speaks of God's love demonstrated in Christ's death for sinners. This is objective evidence of God's love (as an actual historic event). Our hope is strengthened by knowing both the subjective and objective evidence.

⁹ Since God has already done the greater thing, we can be sure that He will do the lesser thing.

¹⁰ Adam was the first man and father of the human race (Genesis 2-3).